

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-01 COA-01 DLOS-03 L-02 EB-07

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R 202128Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4107

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 6638

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, ETRD, PFOR, EC

SUBJ: CALL ON SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES

REF: A. USDAO QUITO 152130Z JAN 75; B. QUITO 0378

1. DURING COURSE OF COURTESY CALL JANUARY 17, SUBSECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FISHERIES, COMMANDER ETHIEL RODRIGUEZ, EXPRESSED TO ME AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL IMPACT OF TRA FOR US/ECUADORIAN RELATIONS AND RODRIGUEZ ANALOGIZED IMPLICATIONS OF PRESENT TRADE CONTROVERSY TO "TUNA WAR" OF PAST YEARS. HE HOPED PROBLEM COULD BE WORKED OUT IN CALM AND REASONED WAY. I ASSURED RODRIGUEZ THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO ALLEVIATE EFFECTS OF TRA ON ECUADOR.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF FISHERIES MATTERS, RODRIGUEZ MADE POINT SEVERAL TIMES THAT FRICTION BETWEEN US OVER TUNA BOATS WAS A THING OF THE PAST.

3. I ALSO RAISED OUR CONCERN OVER THE RECENT GOE REGULATION LIMITING LICENSE ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN-FLAG FISHING VESSELS TO VESSELS 600 NRT AND UNDER. (SEE QUITO A-129). RODRIGUEZ REPLIED THAT THIS TONNAGE

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LIMITATION WOULD LIKELY VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR DEPENDING

ON GOE'S ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF TUNA OFF ECUADOR'S COAST.

4. FINALLY, WE TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT GOE'S PLANS FOR MODERNIZING LOCAL TUNA INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING COMPLEX. WHILE THESE IDEAS ARE STILL ALIVE WITHIN THE MINISTRY, RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT GOE WAS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY IN THESE AREAS AND HE IMPLIED THAT THIS PREDECESSOR (COMMANDER RIVADENEIRA) AND THE FORMER MANAGER OF EPNA (VINCENTE TAMARIZ) HAD PERHAPS BEEN A BIT TOO HASTY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE ABORTED ASSOCIATION CONTRACT WITH B&B.

5. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF TRADE BILL PARALLELS VIEWS RECENTLY CONVEYED TO US BY HIS NAVAL COLLEAGUE CNO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ (REFTELS), REFLECTING PERHAPS WHAT HAS BECOME A STANDARD NAVY LINE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH US WHATEVER THE SUBJECT MATTER.

6. AS REGARDS FISHING MATTERS, WE WERE STRUCK BY WHAT APPEARED TO US TO BE A SOMEWHAT CASUAL ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF RODRIGUEZ WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF ECUADOR'S FISHING INDUSTRY AS COMPARED TO THE OSTENSIBLY MORE ACTIVIST APPROACH OF HIS PREDECESSOR. IT MAY WELL BE THAT FISHING, WHICH ONCE LOOMED LARGE IN GOE'S EYES AS POTENTIAL SOURCE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REVENUE, HAS NOW FINALLY FALLEN INTO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE WITH THE ADVENT OF OIL REVENUES.

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